

## **Gate Money Survey Summary August 2008**

- 35 states (70 percent) responded to multiple requests for information.
- Only five states (Alaska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota and South Carolina) give departing inmates no money.
- Of the states that do give money, the amounts vary from \$10 in Alabama and to an undetermined amount in Vermont that is based on an inmate's needs.
- Eight states (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont) provide assistance at least partially related to an offender's travel plans or costs.
- Four states provide cash and a bus ticket (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas). South Carolina provides only a bus ticket.
- Nevada's payment is determined by the destination of an inmate; the farther the travel, the more money he receives.
- 20 states (57 percent) provide less gate money than the \$100 Montana provides, based on stated amounts or maximums.
- Eight states (Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska and Pennsylvania) provide the same amount as Montana. Texas gives \$100 only to those who leave upon discharging their sentence; parolees get \$50 upon leaving.
- Six states (17 percent) potentially provide more money than Montana. California gives offenders \$200, Idaho provides up to \$1,500 for housing, Nevada bases its amount on distance an offender plans to travel, Texas gives parolees \$50 up front and another \$100 after reporting to their parole office, Vermont's amount is open-ended based on need and West Virginia provides \$300 from a trust fund.
- 25 of the 35 states (71 percent) indicated inmates have accounts maintained by the prisons. Some states did not respond on this issue.
- Only one state (Florida) specifically said inmates do not have accounts.
- 14 of the 25 states (56 percent) indicating they maintain inmate accounts also reported that the amount of money given a departing inmate depends to some degree on the amount in those accounts.
- Six of the 35 states (17 percent) indicated they have a "forced savings" policy for inmates.
- Three states (California, North Carolina and Ohio) base at some payments on length of incarceration.